

Bradford Reporter
Towanda, Thursday, Dec. 11, 1873.
EDITORS:
G. O. GOODRICH. W. ALVORD
THE NEW CONSTITUTION.
Next Tuesday, the 16th inst., the people of this Commonwealth will be called upon peaceably to decide, by ballot, whether the organic law of the Commonwealth shall be changed. The document to be passed upon has been before our readers for several weeks, and we trust has received a careful and critical perusal. Our present constitution was adopted thirty-five years ago. The growth of the State, and the development of our varied interests and industries, naturally require a modification of the law regulating and sustaining them. That the constitution submitted by the convention is faulty, not even the members who framed it deny, but it contains some whole-some reforms, the necessity of which have long been appreciated, by every well-wisher of the Commonwealth. In previous issues we have directed attention to the faults and the improvements of the new constitution, and while we sincerely regret the convention did not submit it in sections, so that the objectionable features might have been left out, we still believe it ought to be adopted, trusting to the legislature to provide for amending, so as to rid it of those portions which experience will, without doubt, prove serious blunders.

We trust every voter in the county will fully inform himself upon the subject, and vote on Tuesday next as his conscience shall dictate. If properly understood, we have no fears that the New Constitution will be adopted by a large majority.
POSTAL OPERATION.
The annual report of Postmaster General CHEWELD, an abstract of which has already appeared in the newspapers, contains a great deal to interest the general reader.
The ordinary expenses of the department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873, were \$2,047,747.97, an increase of \$50,000 over the preceding year. The expenditures of the fiscal year were \$2,019,617.67, or \$28,130.30 more than the year ending June 30, 1872. From this it will be seen that the expenditures were \$68,000, 225 in excess of the receipts.
The number of letters transmitted during the year was 661,301,231, representing 4,016,241, 284 stamps, and 5,827,000 newspaper advertisements, and 122,250,000 of representing \$1,575,500. The number of telegrams transmitted in the United States and possessions in operation in the United States in 1873, was \$5,214, an increase of \$284,000 over the preceding year. The number of telegrams transmitted in the United States and possessions in 1873, was \$5,214, an increase of \$284,000 over the preceding year. The number of telegrams transmitted in the United States and possessions in 1873, was \$5,214, an increase of \$284,000 over the preceding year.

It is in article 3, however, under the head of "Legislation," that I find the germ of the new constitution. The great problem is the day: how can a free people under representative government protect themselves against the unfaithfulness and selfishness of their public servants, has been most admirably answered in the provisions of this article, and it honors the ambition of legislative wisdom and courage, whether of lawyer or layman, that has worked out the plan.
Special legislation has wrought more mischief and confusion than can well be estimated. Every Government have had, since I began to read the messages, has pointed out the evil and warned the people of the dangers flowing therefrom. There has been a constantly increasing volume from year to year; and since concentrated wealth and corporate power has set up an organized agency in and about our legislative halls, it has become of tenfold more dangerous character. Legislation has been sold like some commodity in trade. Men in the legislature have enriched themselves by this shameful traffic and years since we reached the condition that nothing of a local or special nature was too monstrous to pass, if backed by energy and funds. Section 7 of this article tears up this foul growth by the roots, and if it becomes a part of our organic law, will destroy the occupation of that miserable despotic class that has brought reproach upon republican government, by trading in legislation, and violating public trust for the sake of private gain.
The last time I looked in upon our State legislature, March, 1872, when we close the session, and saw its modern machinery in full operation—observed the influences that surrounded and controlled, nay, permeated, both bodies—I came away disgusted and appalled, and was forced to the conclusion that no better legislation, as at present constituted, and with its present powers, is a dangerous department of the government.

There are numerous sections in this article designed to destroy well known abuses that exist under our old constitution. I copy section 18 entire: "No law shall extend the time of any public officer, or increase or diminish his salary or emolument after his election or appointment." This, if adopted, will, in ten years, save the amount which the constitutional convention has cost the Commonwealth, and will relieve us from the present annual struggle over the appropriation bill, in regard to the salaries of our starved officials!
Section 15, Restricting the matter in the general appropriation bill, to the ordinary expenses of government, interest on public debt, and for public schools, consisting of all other appropriations to separate bills embracing but one subject, is a most valuable provision, and in connection with section 11 in Article 4, which gives the Governor power to veto the appropriation bill by vetoing any item of which he disapproves, without destroying the balance of the bill, will result in a great diminution of appropriations for doubtful objects, and plunge some of the genteel beggars of the Commonwealth into profound tribulation.
Section 24 Forbids the stealing (to put it short) of the bonds or other obligations held by the State against certain railroads, and will be a serious check upon any scheme for private gain, as the bonds are to be consumed, and against the objections of those who may be conscientiously opposed to its adoption upon other grounds of minor importance to the people, the electors will be called to pass on Thursday the 16th inst., and will, in fact, be voting on the new constitution.
Section 16, of Article 23, provides that the Senate shall be composed of 50 members, and Section 17, of the same Article, will require the electors to reach every imaginable case, and the punishment, in case of conviction, of disqualification "from holding any office or position of honor, trust or profit in this Commonwealth," seems logical, effective and just. The public servant who protracts to his trust deserves a broad, terrible as it is, and should be forever shut out from public employment, else by the free use of his ill-gotten gains, and the forced payroll, he may again reach public office—like some of the great thieves in New York city.
There are numerous provisions in Article 3 which I have not mentioned, which appear to me of great value; and on a careful review of the whole Article, I would not choose to strike out a single section.
I cannot, within the limits of this report, go over the details of the work; but the new constitution has it; it is so much that meets the wants of the State—so much that is indispensable to any reform in public affairs—that I, for one, am willing to accept it as a great improvement over the old constitution, and as the best we can get for some years to come. I shall vote for it, rejoicing that there is so much in it calculated to "strangle the Old Monopoly," and enable the people to recover the control of the legislative halls now in the hands of lobbyists and rosters. In that event, I think these last named tradesmen will have to seek some new business, and the needy attorney will find out what place to build up a falling proprietary condition. An awakened and enlightened public opinion will, I trust, reach and control in the future the action of the legislature upon those questions where the power has not been as fully restricted as we could wish; and amendments may be made to the constitution as time and experience indicate weak points therein.
We have but one objection to it, and that is, as regards the provisions of the public debt, and to a great extent, the eve of important elections; but I venture to say that the people of this State have not had since the war, and will not have for years to come, as important matters before them as the new constitution, which they will have on the 16th inst. Let us do a good day's work for Republican government, for ourselves and our successors, by going to the polls and voting for the new constitution.
Yours, truly,
B. LAPOINTE.
S. W. Alvord—Editor Reporter: After having examined the New Constitution, which is to be submitted to the people for adoption on Tuesday the 16th inst., with some care, I desire to state through the medium of the Reporter, some of the reasons for its adoption, which in my judgment are of paramount interest to the people in its favor, over all objections which can be urged against it.
By some, objection is raised to the proposed change of members of the legislature, and especially of the lower House. My experience in the legislature convinces me that this is a most wise and salutary provision, promotive of public safety, which if adopted will prove an obstruction to the agency in and about our legislative halls, which has brought reproach upon republican government, by trading in legislation, and violating public trust for the sake of private gain.
The Senate as now constituted, is composed of thirty-three members, majority of nine. In the new constitution, seven members being present and voting, nine votes in the affirmative may pass under a call of the year and days, any measure within the limits of the present Constitution.
From these facts it will be seen by the most inexperienced observer of legislative affairs, that legislation which is to affect the rights and material interests of three and a half millions of people of the Commonwealth, may be obtained by the affirmative vote of nine members present and voting, and by a call of the year and days, and many of the thirty-five members out of the one hundred and thirty-

three, now comprising both branches of the legislature. Worse and more dangerous than this is the fact that under a suspension of the rules, bills may be passed, under whip and spur, by merely the reading of the titles, and without the second and third reading in detail as required by the rules; and any bill may be passed without a call of the year and days. Still more dangerous is the fact, that legislation may be passed without a call of the year and days, in the absence of a quorum, under suspension of the rules relating to the reading of bills in detail, unless a member shall require a call of the House.
In this manner individual rights are trampled upon, credits out, and much of the precious jobbery which disgraces the statute books of the Commonwealth, and renders our legislature a by-word and a reproach, is procured at Harrisburg.
The provisions of the new constitution, as regards the Legislature, and under Article 33, "Legislation," furnish ample safeguards against the dangers above referred to, and if the people are alive to their own rights, and "dare maintain them" against the objections of such a rascal as the Hon. James W. Smith, and of the majority of the Legislature, which disgraces the statute books of the Commonwealth, and renders our legislature a by-word and a reproach, is procured at Harrisburg.
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The document, dear you from voting against it. Remember in this connection, that as Chief Justice Chase, and a large number of other great and noble spirits of the Nation, are openly opposing the measure, should you be induced to do so, that some one of the provisions will benefit your immediate neighbors. Run show afterwards. If you believe the document is wise and just, and will make the reforms which the people have so long struggled to accomplish; if you believe that under the workings of the present people will be benefited, violate your conscience and vote for it, on the contrary, you believe there are portions of the document that are wrong, do not believe your conscience to advise you against them, do not depend on the future to eliminate these wrongs from your organic law. Remember that an "ounce of prevention" is worth a pound of cure."
Respectfully yours,
G. H. ALLEN.
Towanda, December 9, 1873.
Mr. Alvord: I will vote for the new Constitution. I have examined it with care, and I believe it will be a benefit to the Commonwealth. I have seen the document in its original form, and I believe it will be a benefit to the Commonwealth. I have seen the document in its original form, and I believe it will be a benefit to the Commonwealth. I have seen the document in its original form, and I believe it will be a benefit to the Commonwealth.

the constitutional convention, who have a little shame left, for their failure to submit separate propositions to a separate vote, is that such action would mar the symmetry of the new instrument. There are those to whom that symmetry is a matter of indifference, and who consider a crooked, stiff, distorted, humpbacked, spavined, halting, limping production, as ever was presented to the gaze of an intelligent people. But assuming for this once that it is beautiful and symmetrical, I can not see how much will this supernatural splendor and symmetry be marred by knocking out that provision which deprives the people of Pennsylvania of a free ballot? How much will it be marred by striking out of our Constitution under a little clique of Philadelphia politicians in each party have already elected the next two judges of the Supreme Court, and enacting the doctrine that the people shall choose their judges, and that the majority of voters shall elect them, and who shall be elected by the cumulative vote (which, as applied to boroughs, the people of the State unanimously spewed out last winter) in corporate elections? Why will it be marred, if in the legislative article, the doctrine of "one man one vote" is introduced, and that all citizens shall be represented equally, and that stricken out which in effect disfranchises a hundred thousand voters, giving a representative to 4000 people in Forest, and none to 17,000 in Lancaster? Why will it be marred, if the new tax article so clear and unambiguous that it should cease to be the subject of a different interpretation by every county lawyer? Why would it be marred by a repeal of the narrow and liberal restrictions placed upon the charter of the State? Why would it be marred by erasing the childlike provision against the issue of free passes, and sale of discounted tickets by our railroad corporations? In short, why should it be marred by knocking out all the stuff, and obsolete and inflexible maxims, and giving the people what they wanted, reform in legislation, and finance and municipal affairs, written in the English language, so plain that he who can read might understand it?
S. W. Alvord—Editor Reporter: I notice on reading that a large majority of the newspapers are in support of the proposed New Constitution, and I am glad to hear that. I have examined it with care, and I believe it will be a benefit to the Commonwealth. I have seen the document in its original form, and I believe it will be a benefit to the Commonwealth. I have seen the document in its original form, and I believe it will be a benefit to the Commonwealth.

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